

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 3, line 15 and ending at page 3, line 26, as follows:

In Figure 1, the reference numeral 1 designates an objective lens for forming the image of an object. As can be seen from Fig. 1, objective lens 1 is a composite lens of two lens elements in this embodiment. In some cases, the objective lens is divided into multiple groups. The letter L denotes the optical axis of the optical system. The reference numeral 2 designates a variable angle prism (hereinafter referred to as the VAP) which is means for changing the optical axis (or the optical path). The VAP 2 is of a construction in which liquid 2d having a uniform refractive index is enclosed in a bellows vessel 2c having its opposite ends adhesively secured to two transparent plates 2a and 2b.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 4, line 10 and ending at page 4, line 15, as follows:

The reference numeral 4 designates an eyepiece for observing therethrough the image formed by the objective lens 1. As can be seen from Fig. 1, eyepiece 4 has (a) a composite lens of two lens elements, (b) a lens element, and (c) another composite lens of two lens elements, in this embodiment. The objective lens 1, the variable angle prism 2, the erect prism 3, and the eyepiece 4 are disposed coaxially with the optical axis L. As can be seen from Fig. 1, the objective lens 1 and variable angle prism 2 form a front optical system with respect to the erect prism 3, and the eyepiece 4 forms a rear optical system with respect to the erect prism 3.